

DOE Weekly Field Memo – February 3, 2010

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Commissioner Memo: District Support for Local Standards Boards

Audience: Superintendents

Commissioner Vilaseca requests that all superintendents actively support their district Local Standards Boards (LSBs) by granting the basic supports such as: provide time at in-service meetings and individual school faculty meetings to present relicensure procedures/updates, and regard LSB service as district committee work in addition to considering more substantial supports such as release time with substitute coverage during the school year. See the full memo at

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#lsb>.

Contact: Deb Giles, Licensing Consultant, at (802) 828-1370 or deborah.giles@state.vt.us.

IEP Resources

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Administrators and Special Educators

Are you or your teams struggling to make one curriculum for all, balancing IEPs for students with intensive needs between standards-based, grade-level curriculum and functional focus, and meeting federal and state guidelines? If so, read on and check out the suggested links to help your teams. This is a very difficult transition for teams with students with intensive needs. It requires comprehensive systems planning, strong and long professional development, ongoing modeling and partnering, and continuous moral support. View the document at: http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_sped.html#iep.

DOE contact: Joan Larsen, Special Education Consultant, at (802) 828-5120 or joan.larsen@state.vt.us

Legislative Reports Posted

Audience: All

As a result of each legislative session, the Vermont Department of Education is charged with various reporting requirements. This page offers the final reports that are due based on the first year of the 2009-2010 legislative biennium as well as other required annual reports from previous legislative sessions.

Reports are listed by Act number at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/laws/legislative_reports.html.

Contact: Cindy Lee, Commissioner's assistant, at (802) 828-0770 or cindy.lee@state.vt.us

Arts Education Spring Conference

Audience: Art Educators, Educators Interested in Integrated Arts Curriculum

The Vermont Alliance for Arts Education Spring Conference will take place at the Vermont College of Fine Arts on Thursday – Friday, March 11-12, 2010. This conference is appropriate for arts educators as well as classroom teachers seeking training in integrated arts. Thursday includes special sessions and the Arts Educator Awards Dinner. Friday features rigorous professional development in integrated arts, music, visual art, dance and theatre in each of three sessions. For more information and to register, visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#march_10.

Contact: Gail Kilkelly, Coordinator for Arts Education, at (802) 828-6560 or gail.kilkelly@state.vt.us.

From the Department of Public Safety:

Online Training on Criminal Record Checks

Audience: All

This training is designed to update public school officials, who are responsible for applicant backgrounds, on the proper procedures involved in acquiring appropriate background criminal record information in accordance with state and federal regulations. The course, offered by the Vermont Criminal Information Center, is in Powerpoint format and is designed to be of value to beginners as well as persons currently using the process. The online delivery of the training is interactive. Visit

<https://student.gototraining.com/395sm/catalog/109345190> for more information and to register.

Contact: Bruce Parizo, Deputy Director, at (802) 241-5224 or bparizo@dps.state.vt.us

From the Department of Corrections/Community High School of Vermont:

Save the Date: Two-Day Conference on the Habits of Mind

Audience: All

March 22nd and 23rd, 2010 at the Champlain Valley Exposition in Essex Junction. Art Costa and Bena Kallick, Cofounders and Directors of the [Institute for the Habits of Mind](http://www.instituteforthehabitsofmind.org), will introduce us to the Habits of Mind, and why they provide a shift in perspective of what's important in learning. Traditionally, parents and educators are impressed with how many answers students know. Although the right answers are important, the critical attribute of efficacious human beings is not only having right answers or information, but also knowing how to act on it. With Habits of Mind, we focused on how students behave when they don't know the answer! The inclusive cost for conference registration and materials will be \$250. We will send an announcement when registration information is available at

<http://doc.vermont.gov/programs/educational-programs/habits-of-mind-conference>. Space is limited and will be filled on a first come-first served basis. Sponsored by the [Community High School of Vermont](http://www.chs.vt.edu).

Contact: Sheila Commo at Sheila.commo@ahs.state.vt.us or (802) 241-2273

From the University of Vermont:

Worms in School Workshop Now Available Statewide

Audience: Administrators, Educators in PK-8

The UVM Extension Master Gardener/Master Composter Program is pleased to announce that the *Worms in School* workshop is now available statewide for preschool through grade 8 classrooms. You can find more information about *Worms in School* and locate an instructor near you at:

<http://compostingvermont.org/WormsInSchool.html>. Costs for a bin and worms varies depending on the availability of donated bins and worms. There is a one-time fee of \$100 for the workshop and follow up technical assistance. As available, grant funding underwrites some or all of the workshop fee.

Contact: Pat O'Neill, Program Director, at (802) 744-2345 or pats@pshift.com

From the Governor's Institute of Vermont:

Winter Workshops for Student Leadership

Audience: High School Students; Guidance Counselors

High School students will address tough topics on Saturday, February 13 at the Montpelier High School from 9 to 5 pm. as part of the 2010 Governor's Institutes of Vermont (GIV) Winter Workshops. The GIV Winter Workshops give students an understanding of current issues and skills necessary to effectively communicate and support change. Enrollment will continue until the workshops are filled. Completed registration forms and \$15 fee should be mailed to: The Governor's Institutes of Vermont, 100 State Street, Suite 334, Montpelier, VT 05602. High school students can register online at: <http://www.giv.org/>. Contact: Governor's Institute of Vermont at (802) 229-4757 or <http://www.giv.org/>.

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.